Rationale

- Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life-threatening. The most common allergens in school-aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow’s milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication.
- The keys to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is having knowledge of those students who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens), and the prevention of exposure to these triggers. The partnership between Westgarth Primary School and its parents is important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student whilst he/she is at school.
- Adrenaline given through an EpiPen® auto injector to the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the most effective first-aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

Aims

- To make, as far as practicable, Westgarth Primary School a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of schooling.
- To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school’s anaphylaxis management policy (Ministerial Order 90) in the Westgarth Primary School community.
- To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.
- To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school’s policy and procedures in response to an anaphylactic reaction.

Implementation

Individual Management Plans

The Principal/First Aid Co-Ordinator will ensure that an individual management plan is developed, in consultation with the student’s parents, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis.

- The individual anaphylaxis management plan and an up to date EpiPen® will be in place as soon as practicable after the student is enrolled and, must be in place prior to or on their first day of school each school year.
The individual anaphylaxis management plan will set out the following:

- Information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has (based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner).
- Strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff, for in-school and out of school settings including camps and excursions, the Kitchen Garden and OSHC.
- The name/s of the person/s responsible for implementing the strategies.
- Information on where the student’s medication will be stored.
- The student’s emergency contact details.
- An emergency procedures plan (ASCIA* Action Plan), provided by the parent, that:
  - sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction;
  - is signed by a medical practitioner who is treating the child and includes an up-to-date photograph of the student.

The student’s individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student’s parents/carers:

- annually, and as applicable,
- if the student’s condition changes, or
- immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school

It is the responsibility of the parent to:

- Inform the school of their child’s medical condition.
- Provide the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA* Action Plan).
- meet with classroom teacher to discuss student’s individual management plan for school and special circumstances (i.e. OSHC, Kitchen Garden Program, camps, excursions)
- Inform the school if their child’s medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedures plan (ASCIA* Action Plan).
- Provide an up-to-date photo for the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA* Action Plan) when the plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed.
- Provide an in-date EpiPen® (and a replacement upon notification of expiry).

Communication Plan

- The Principal/First Aid Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring that a communication plan is developed to provide information to all staff, students and parents about anaphylaxis and the school’s anaphylaxis management policy.
- The communication plan will include information about what steps will be taken to respond to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in a classroom, in the school yard, on school excursions, on school camps and special event days.
• Casual relief staff (CRTs) who may be working with students at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed of such students and informed of their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction from a student in their care by the Principal or First Aid Coordinator.

• All staff and regular OSHC/Kitchen/Garden staff will be trained annually by a qualified trainer and briefed by a staff member who has up-to-date anaphylaxis management training. Regular CRTs will be invited and strongly encouraged to attend the annual training program at the beginning of the school year and new staff and CRTs will be briefed on an as needed basis on:
  o the school’s anaphylaxis management policy
  o the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
  o the identities of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medication is located
  o how to use an auto adrenaline injecting device
  o the school’s first aid and emergency response procedures

• All staff visitor lanyards will have emergency response procedures printed on the back.

• At the beginning of each school year, an Anaphylaxis awareness brochure/material will be sent home to all families.

• Each term an anaphylaxis/health issues reminder note will be included or attached to the newsletter.

Out of School Hours Care (OSCH)

All participants will be notified of the following:

• The school has identified the following foods as high risk allergens: peanut butter, nutella, other nut spreads, tahini, hummus, peanuts, other nuts, peanut oil and sesame oil. These foods will not be served by OSHC staff.

• OSCH staff will follow Minimising the Risk guidelines as set out in the Anaphylaxis Guidelines to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens brought into OSCH by students attending the program.

• It is important to note that the OSCH program is not a nut-free environment.

Kitchen Garden Program

All participants will be notified of the following:

• The high risk allergens peanut butter, nutella, other nut spreads, tahini, hummus, peanuts, other nuts, peanut oil and sesame oil will not be served or used in the preparation of food in the Kitchen/Garden program.

• Other allergens may exist within the Kitchen Garden so teachers, students and volunteers will follow minimising the Risk guidelines as set out in the Anaphylaxis Guidelines to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens brought into Kitchen Garden by students attending the program.

• It is important to note that the Kitchen Garden program is not a nut-free environment.
Staff Training and Emergency Response

- Teachers and other school staff who conduct classes which students at risk of anaphylaxis attend, or give instruction to students at risk of anaphylaxis must have up-to-date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.
- At other times while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including excursions, recess and lunchtimes, camps and special event days, the Principal must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up-to-date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.
- As mandated, training will be an annual implementation.
- The school’s first aid procedures and students emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.
- The Anaphylaxis Management DVD will be used at a staff meeting to raise awareness of anaphylaxis, remind staff of how to use an EpiPen® (auto adrenaline injecting device) and key management strategies to minimize risks in the school environment.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the annual training process.

Emergency Plans developed by:
*Australasian Society of clinical Immunology and Allergy Incorporated.

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